

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing thermal energy to a thermodynamic machine for generating electrical power, comprising,
 - a heat storage device for storing thermal energy;
 - a first heat transfer means for transferring thermal energy from the heat storage device to the thermodynamic machine for generating electricity,
 - first heat generating means for ~~heating~~ generating heat from electrical energy supplied to the heat storage device, wherein said first heat generating means is contained within the heat storage device ~~with electrical power~~

~~wherein the system comprises second heat generating means for providing thermal energy to the thermodynamic machine.~~
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

second heat generating means for providing thermal energy to the thermodynamic machine; and

wherein the second heat generating means comprise a second working fluid circuit with a second working fluid connectable to the thermodynamic machine, and a controllable heat source for heating the second working fluid.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 3, wherein the first heat transfer means comprise a first working fluid circuit with a first working fluid connectable to the thermodynamic machine, wherein the second working fluid circuit and the first working fluid circuit ~~are identical~~ coincide.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the first heat generating means comprise an ohmic resistor inside the heat storage unit or a heat pump.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the heat storage device comprises a heat storage medium which is in a solid state at a lower temperature level of the storage device.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein the heat storage medium is in a solid state at the higher temperature level of the heat storage device.

8. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the first heat transfer means comprises a controllable heat resistance for controlling the heat transfer.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for generating electrical power in response to an electrical power demand in a system having a heat storage device that includes first heat generating means, the method comprising,

- heating said ~~[[a]]~~ heat storage device via the first heat generating means by converting electrical power from an electrical power supply ~~exceeding~~ that exceeds an electrical power demand,

- transferring, via ~~[[a]]~~ first heat transfer means, thermal energy from the heat storage device to a thermodynamic machine for generating electricity, ~~and, if necessary, providing thermal energy to the thermodynamic machine via second heat generating means to meet an electrical power demand exceeding the electrical power supply; and~~

- generating, via the first heat generating means, heat from the electrical power.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the electrical power demand and/or supply do take into account economical considerations.

11. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein it comprises a second heat generating means for providing thermal energy to the thermodynamic machine.